

Monmouth Rural District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ended
31st December 1970

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1970.

Members of the Council.

Councillor D. R. Price, Chairman
" B. P. Rogers, Vice-Chairman

Clr. R. W. J. Anstey	Clr. R. Ratcliffe Jones
" Mrs. S. M. Appleton	" V. G. Kings
" T. N. Ballinger	" G. J. Morgan
" J. R. Brierley	" C. W. Nicholas
" B. M. Cowles	" R. D. Nugent
" F. J. Cripwell	" E. J. Porter
" E. C. Davies	" R. Skinner
" D. W. Edwards	" G. W. L. Spencer
" H. Embrey	" J. C. Williams
" E. S. Howells	

Clerk of the Council:- Mr. D. Watts

Public Health and Works Committee.

Councillor G.W.L.Spencer Chairman

Clr. T. N. Ballinger	Clr. E. J. Porter
" F. J. Cripwell	" R. Skinner
" E. C. Davies	" R. D. Nugent
" E. S. Howells	" J. C. Williams
" V. G. Kings	

(Chairman and Vice-Chairman Ex-Officio Members)

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health	- M. S. Matharu, L.R.C.P & S.I.L.M., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector	- P. A. Thomas, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.A. Rural S., M.R.I.P.H.H., Cert. S.I. Cert. Inspector of Meat and other foods

General Statistics

Area (in acres)	54,858
Estimated Mid-year Population	6,050
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,306
Rateable Value	£112,151
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£425.23

MONMOUTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Shaftesbury House,
Monnow St.,
Monmouth.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District of Monmouth

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1970.

This year marks the ultimate changes that will take place in the whole structure of Public Health, and to a large extent to the local authorities, as envisaged in the new Local Government re-organisation papers.

I personally feel that if this change produces larger authorities having remote central offices then probably they will not be at the advantage necessary to serve the community as a whole.

It is also envisaged that the future of Public Health services for the community be integrated in the new schemes of re-organisation of the National Health Services as a whole. It is early at this stage to conjecture what this will entail, but I sincerely hope that whatever the role of the Medical Officer will be, it should be such that he is intimately connected with the community so that he is in the strategic position which gives him advantage over Disease and other medico-social factors enabling his preventive work to be affected immediately when the need arises.

Might I bring to your attention the Voluntary Co-ordinating Committee. This Committee consists of all the voluntary organisations in this area in conjunction with representation from each of the Churches and has been set up to co-ordinate and extend their resources by avoiding reduplication of the facilities they provide. To my knowledge this is the only committee of this nature in Monmouthshire. This presents a valuable centre of resources within the geographical confines of the local community which may be called upon to support cases of need effectively while the "curative" factors necessary for these needs are in the process of being implemented by the central agencies.

cont'd.

The health of the district continues to be satisfactory.

For the production of this report credit is accorded to the continual co-operation of Mr. P. Thomas who has given his support to me at all times and has carried out his Public Health duties with great efficiency.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

M. S. Matharu

STATISTICS

The estimated mid-year population was 6050. This figure shows a downward trend as compared with the mid-year population of 1969.

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	-	Legitimate	73
		Illegitimate	5

This shows a total of 78 births. This figure shows a fall in comparison to the figure of 1969 when the total number of births was 88.

There were two still births recorded in this year. This remains the same as in 1969.

INFANT MORTALITY

This year there was 1 death of infants under 1 year. This figure is an improvement on 1969.

DEATHS

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
27	38	65

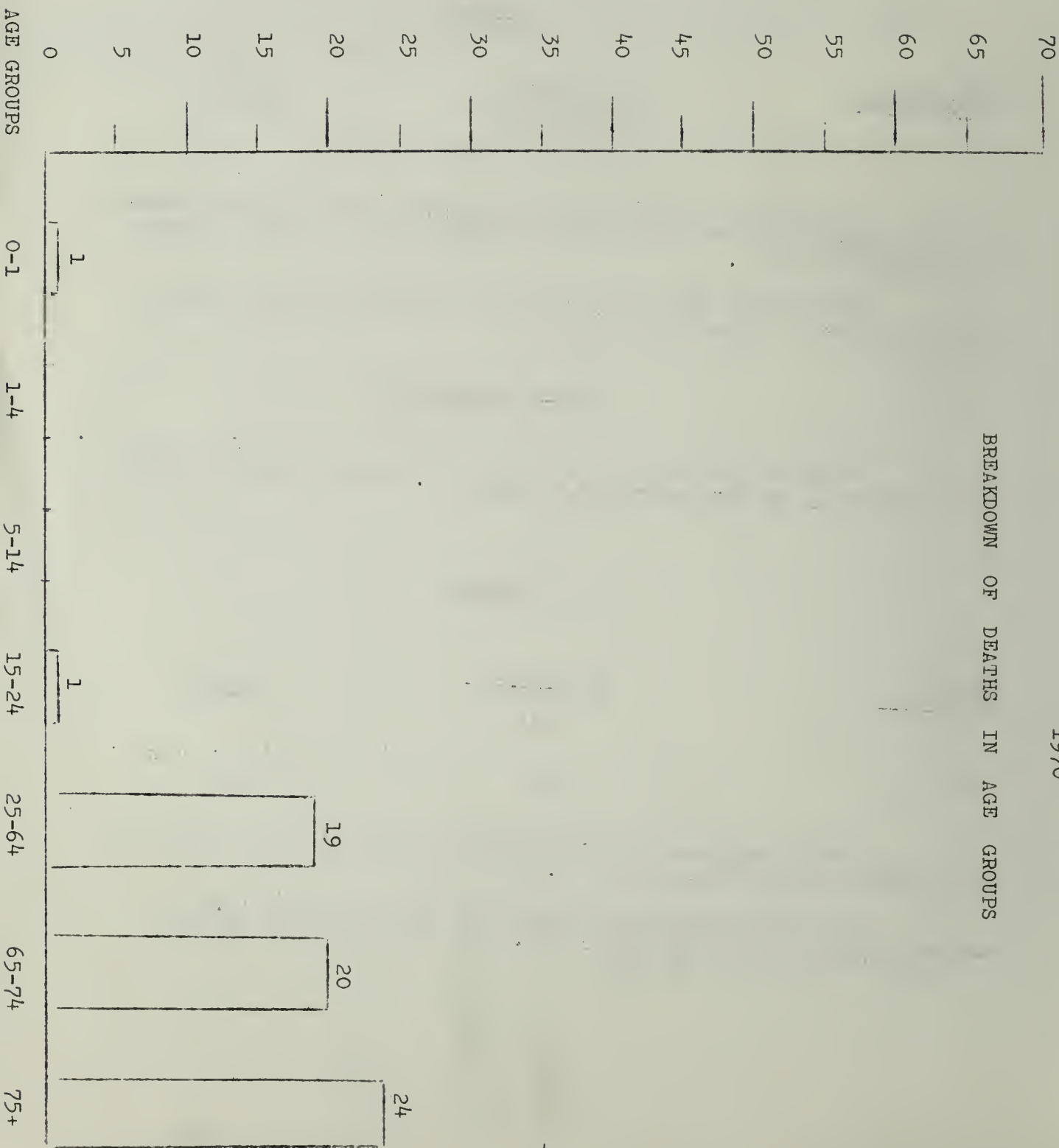
This compares very favourably with the death rate in 1969 when the total was 80.

The following graph shows the distribution of the deaths at various age groups.

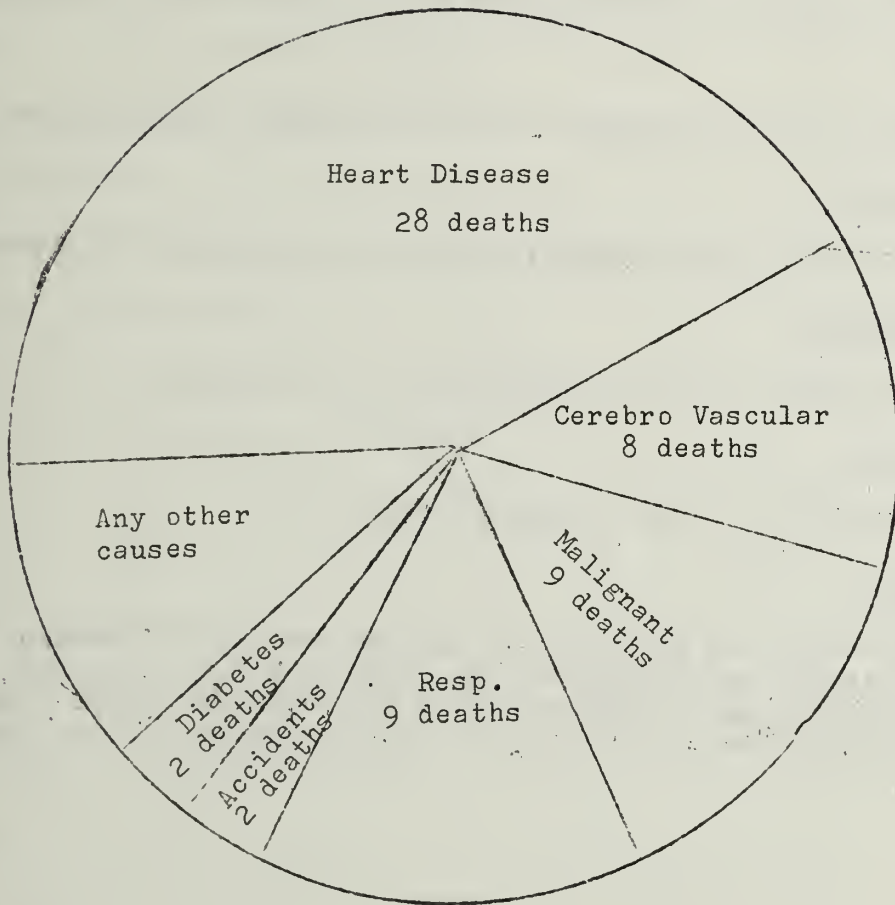
Number
Deaths

1970

BREAKDOWN OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS



1970



GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

It is important to note that the County started to immunise children by sending them appointments via the computer at County Hall, Newport. This was to centralise the immunisation programme so this year I am unable to give the usual numbers of children that have been immunised at the local clinics as was the custom in previous years.

Diphtheria

No case of Diphtheria has been notified in this year.

Smallpox

No case of smallpox has been notified this year.

Poliomyelitis

No case of poliomyelitis was notified in this year.

Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning was notified.

Tuberculosis

One case of T.B. gland in the neck.

Brucellosis

One case was notified of Brucellosis in a herd. This was immediately acted upon by Mr. Thomas and I took the appropriate action to inform the G.P.'s in the area. To my knowledge there were no cases of human brucellosis following this.

DEATHS IN 1970

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, intestines	0	4
" " lung and bronchus	1	0
" " breast	0	2
Other malignant diseases	0	2
Diabetes		2
Other endocrine diseases		1
Other diseases of the nervous system	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Diseases		1
Hypertensive Disease		3
Ischaemic Heart Diseases	6	8
Other forms of Heart Disease	1	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	5	3
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	4
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	2	0
Bronchitis and emphysema	5	0
Other forms of digestive systems	1	0
Other diseases of urinary system	1	0
Birth injury, difficult labour	0	1
Diseases of muscular skeletal system	1	0
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
All other accidents	0	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27	38
	<hr/>	<hr/>

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

WATER

There was no acute shortage of water during the year under review but some pressure was experienced in maintaining supply and many members of the public using dip wells and shallow-seated springs in the northern area experienced a shortage during the latter end of the year. 64 samples were taken for bacteriological examination of raw and treated waters and basically all proved satisfactory in standard.

In February the Northern Area Water Scheme commenced and this will afford mains supply to an area which gave considerable rise to concern due to shortages and dry summers as the main of the area relied on shallow spring sources. On the 1st April, 1970 the Gwent Water Board took over the responsibilities of the Council for all water supplies and sampling was immediately started by the Board in addition to the ones enumerated above.

Llandogo Water Supply

This source still gives rise to complaints due to its acidity and the Board are now contemplating a variation of source and augmenting storage for the village with a Braithwaite reservoir.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Llandogo village sewerage scheme was prepared in readiness for tendering and should commence early in 1971 following the Welsh Office enquiry at the site.

Mitchel Troy and The Narth have been further considered for projected schemes in a five year plan. Complaints have been received about drainage difficulties in the village of Trelleck and these are under review at the present time with the assistance of the Usk River Authority Pollution Department.

All new properties built in the area are still basically sewered by septic tank disposal and effluent creates problems in the clay sub-soils. The Council's scheme for emptying septic tanks still operates and finds increasing favour in spite of the fact of increased costs.

The number of visits made by the Public Health Inspector in connection with drainage works was 163.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was found necessary during the year.

RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

There are no registered premises in the area.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no premises of this type within the rural area.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The total area of collection remains the same as for previous years with a weekly and fortnightly collection and disposal of house refuse through the district. Improvements have been maintained since the Council took over refuse collection by direct labour but extreme difficulty is being experienced in securing new sites for disposal.

Semi-controlled tipping is practised and no complaints were received re nuisance from any of the three tips used by the Council.

In common with the rest of the country the volume of refuse to be collected is growing whilst weight is decreasing and this is involving the Council's vehicle in increased trips to the tip and also increased maintenance work in trying to contain lighter refuse which tends to get blown about.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector, Mr. P. A. Thomas. At this juncture I must state I am indebted to the Public Health Inspector for the figures and details of his work contained in this report. The information has proved most useful in the preparation of this report.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received	149
Number of complaints investigated	149
Number of premises inspected	62
Number of premises re-visited	62
Number of Preliminary Notices served	19
for (a) Structural defects	8
(b) Sanitary defects	11
Number of statutory notices served	Nil

Result of Notices served

Number completed	11
Number in hand of builder	Nil

Offensive Trades.

There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises

Number of licensed premises	25
Number of visits to such premises	31

In all licensed premises the Licensing Justices were satisfied with amenities provided and several improvements were carried out during the year under review.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

There were no new premises registered during the year and the enforcement of this Act has not been proceeded with due to lack of time available.

Total No. on Register.

Offices	3
Retail Shops	6
Catering establishments open to the public	2
Fuel storage depots	-
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-

ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR.

Offices	15
Retail Shops	28
Wholesale departments, warehouses	-
Catering establishments open to the public	9
<hr/>	
TOTAL STAFF EMPLOYED	52
Total Males	7
Total Females	45

Every premises was visited once during the year under review. There is a gradual decrease in establishments employing labour. In the main country businesses are slowly reverting to family only with a gradual decrease in the work necessary to administer this Act.

Factories.

Number of factories on Register	8
Number of inspections made	8

Caravan Sites

Under the provision of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act the position is as follows:-

Number of sites licensed permanently	0
Number of sites with limited period	3
Total number of caravans authorised	112

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

Number of premises inspected as a result of notification or otherwise	126
Number of properties found to be infested	73
Number of premises treated by the Local Authority	77
Number of notices served in respect of treatment	Nil

t Animals Act, 1951.

Number of licensed pet shops 1

Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963.

Number of Kennels licensed 1

Number of inspections 4

Housing Needs. Applicants for Council Houses.

The demand for Council accommodation is still maintained. Houses were completed at Cross Ash and Queen's Hill, Dingestow and the St. Cadoc's Court warden accommodation was completed in Raglan and the project received an award for both the Council and Architect from the Welsh Office.

As in previous years the demand increases for housing accommodation adjacent to bus routes and Old Age Pensioners are still the predominant group of applicants.

Housing - Private Enterprise.

Total number of houses erected during the year 32

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Number of houses approved for Discretionary Grants 16

Number of applications approved for Standard Grants 34

It is to be noted that there is a 100% increase in Discretionary Grants over last year and this I feel can be attributed to the enhanced value of grant now available.

A tremendous amount of work and time is put into dealing with applications for this type of award and often at least 9 visits or interviews are necessary before a proposal finalises as an application.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Number of registered dairies in the area 2

Number of distributors licensed 2

Number of producer/distributors from outside rural district 1

Number of producer/distributors in area 4

Total number distributing in area 9

Meat.

One slaughterhouse serving the area. One out of production during the year due to staffing difficulties. The premises remaining has been run in accordance with the licence issued by the authority and the co-operation of both owner and Ministry Veterinary Officers have been readily available.

The Meat Regulations, 1963.

Charges are being made for meat inspection in accordance with the scale laid down by the Ministry and 100% meat inspection has been maintained during the year.

Meat Inspections.

Number of inspections 300

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole and part.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	235	-	1	1,268	427
Number inspected	235	-	1	1,268	427

All diseases except tuberculosis & cysticerci.

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part of organ condemned	27	-	-	50	11

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	7
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	-	-	-	-	104 lbs.

No animal was found infected with *C. bovis* during the year under review.

Cysticerci.

Carcased of which some part or organ condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by reffridgeration	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

Total weight condemned of home killed in lbs. weight for T.M.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep Lambs	Pigs.
Whole carcasses	-	-	-	-	-
Part carcasses	-	-	-	-	104
Organs	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	104
<u>For other diseases</u>					
Whole carcasses	-	-	-	-	-
Part carcasses	-	-	-	-	-
Organs	339	-	-	11	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
	339	-	-	11	13 $\frac{3}{4}$

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Type of Food Premises. No. Inspections. Notices. No registered under
Sec.16 Food & Drugs
Act, 1955.

Cafe/Restaurant	7	28	-	-
Grocers	16	11	-	-
Butchers	4	7	-	4
Sweets	11	13	-	-
Bakehouses	1	4	-	-
Icecream producer/ retailers	-	-	-	-
Icecream retailers	33	21	-	33
School Canteens	12	19	-	-

Other Foods Condemned

Number of tins condemned - No requests were received during year,
Number of lbs. of other
foods condemned. - 79 lbs.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

31 inspections were made to food premises and improvements were secured in all of the premises visited.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

1. The Council require owners of the slaughterhouses to inform them where meat is disposed of. Meat is stained with a green vegetable dye and disposed of to a processing firm.
2. Condemned tins etc. are disposed of by burying in the Council tip.

Poultry Inspection.

There is one poultry processing premises within the district which forms part of a turkey raising farm. Turkeys only are dealt with and basically are produced for the rough-plucked Christmas trade. 21 visits were paid to these premises over the Christmas period and some 5,000 birds were slaughtered.

Only 7 birds were rejected out of the through-put and this was due to severe bruising making the eareas unmarketable. This involved 128 lbs. being condemned as unfit for human consumption. The owner co-operated to ensure humane slaughter and adequate hygienic conditions were maintained throughout the season and further improvements have been discussed for the 1971 season.

APPENDIX. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1961.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1970 for the MONMOUTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937. Part 1 of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on register.	Inspect- ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
1. Faetories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	8	8	-	-
2. Faetories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authority	10	16	-	-
3. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	18	24	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

	<u>No. of cases in which defects were found.</u>			<u>No. of cases in which prosecutions instituted</u>
	Found	Remedied	<u>Referred to H.M. Insp.</u> by	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-

There is one outworker in the district and regular inspections were made on the premises.

Yours faithfully,

M. S. MATHARU,
L.R.C.P & S.I.L.M., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

